

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS PRESS RELEASE

For release, July 5, 2001

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Rafael Armendariz, D.O., a 38 year-old physician from El Paso, Texas, was charged with being disciplined by the medical licensing authority of another state. Dr. Armendariz was disciplined by the Texas Board with directly and indirectly aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine, failure to adequately supervise staff, allowing non-licensed staff to issue prescriptions and failure to adequately review prescriptions issued by licensed staff, failure to code billing properly, charging for services advertised as free, publishing misleading advertisements, and failure to have the complaint procedure posted in his clinic. Dr. Armendariz' Texas medical license was placed on probation for a period of two (2) years under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Armendariz has not practiced in Iowa for some time. A hearing in the matter is scheduled for September 25, 2001.

Michael L. Burns, M.D. a 40 year-old physician from Park River, North Dakota, entered into combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Burns was charged with failure to continue treatment with a Board-approved psychiatrist and submit reports to the Board while practicing medicine in Iowa. The Board issued Dr. Burns a Citation and Warning and Dr. Burns agreed to comply with the requirements of his Board-ordered probation. Dr. Burns is prohibited from performing locum tenens in the state of Iowa.

Pamela J. Christy, D.O., a 47 year-old physician practicing in Farmington, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Christy was charged by the Board with professional incompetency for inappropriately prescribing excessive amounts of controlled substances on several occasions. Dr. Christy's Iowa medical license was placed on probation for a period of two years under certain terms and conditions and she was issued a Citation and Warning. Dr. Christy was ordered to successfully complete continuing education in the areas of prescribing and medical record keeping and she was ordered to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty.

Conrad W. Fitz, D.O., a 42 year-old physician from South Fork, Colorado, entered into a Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Fitz was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by the Medical Board of Colorado. The Colorado Board charged Dr. Fitz with the excessive use of controlled substances, diverting controlled substances for his own use and engaging in a sexual relationship with a patient. On June 8, 2000, the Colorado Board suspended Dr. Fitz's

Colorado medical license for 30 days and placed his license on probation for a period of 5 years under certain terms and conditions. The Iowa Board issued Dr. Fitz a Citation and Warning for being disciplined by another licensing authority and placed his Iowa medical license on probation under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Fitz has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

Thomas A. Francis, M.D., a 42 year-old physician from Scottsdale, Arizona, voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation. Dr. Francis was disciplined by the Arizona Board for engaging in unprofessional conduct for falsifying a medical record and he voluntarily surrendered his Iowa license to resolve this Board's investigation into that matter. Dr. Francis has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

Gary C. Jobin, M.D., a 59 year-old physician from Salt Lake City, Utah, was charged with being disciplined by the medical licensing authority of another state. Dr. Jobin was disciplined by the Virginia Board after he pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service. Dr. Jobin was sentenced to prison for a year and a day and three years supervised probation. Dr. Jobin's Virginia medical license was suspended and later reinstated and placed on probation under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Jobin has not practiced in Iowa for some time. A hearing in the matter is scheduled for September 25, 2001.

Scott B. Neff, D.O., a 45 year-old orthopedic surgeon practicing in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Neff was charged by the Board with engaging in unethical or unprofessional conduct when while performing surgery he inappropriately sprayed two healthcare providers with a surgical power irrigation device. Dr. Neff was issued a Citation and Warning for engaging in unprofessional conduct and ordered to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty. Dr. Neff was ordered to successfully complete a disruptive physician evaluation. He was ordered to undergo continuing behavioral counseling and make arrangements for another physician who works closely with him to monitor his professional conduct for up to five years.

Pyotr Plotnik, M.D., a 57 year-old physician from Brooklyn, New York, entered into a combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Plotnik was charged with being disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. The New York State Board charged Dr. Plotnik with 33 acts of professional incompetence in 1994 and 1995. Dr. Plotnik entered into a Consent Agreement with the New York State Board in which he is prohibited from performing any and all clinical practice. Dr. Plotnik voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license.

Paul H. Ribbentrop, D.O., a 79 year-old physician from Clinton Township, Michigan, was charged with being disciplined by the medical licensing authority of another state. Dr. Ribbentrop was disciplined by the Michigan Board after he pleaded guilty to four felony counts of delivery/manufacture of controlled substances. Dr. Ribbentrop's Michigan medical license was suspended for three years and he ordered to pay a \$15,000 fine. Dr. Ribbentrop has not practiced in Iowa for some time. A hearing in the matter is scheduled for September 25, 2001.

Floyd D. Simpson, D.O., a 56 year-old physician from Springfield, Missouri, entered into a Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Simpson was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by the Medical Board of Missouri. Respondent was disciplined for abusing controlled substances. On April 20, 2000, the Missouri Board and Dr. Simpson entered into a Settlement Agreement placing Respondent's Missouri medical license on probation for a period of seven (7) years under certain terms and conditions. The Iowa Board issued Dr. Simpson a Citation and Warning for being disciplined by another licensing authority and placed his Iowa medical license on probation under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Simpson has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

Jan-Erik Stole, M.D., a 53 year-old physician from Olympia, Washington, voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation. Dr. Stole was disciplined by the Washington Board for providing false information on a license application. He surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve this Board's investigation into that matter. Dr. Stole has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

Vernon P. Varner, M.D., a 58 year-old psychiatrist from Iowa City, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement and Final Order with the Board. Dr. Varner was charged with professional incompetency for demonstrating a pattern of violations of the prevailing standard of care when on numerous occasions he inappropriately prescribed psychotropic medications and narcotics to several patients. Dr. Varner's Iowa medical license was placed probation for a period of five years under certain terms and conditions. He successfully completed a competency evaluation and entered into a practice monitoring program with the Board.